REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments, which place the application in condition for immediate allowance. By way of the foregoing amendments, claims 1, 11, and 21 have been canceled. Claims 2, 4, 12, 14, and 22, each of which has been indicated by the Examiner as being allowable, have been rewritten in independent form. Claim 28 has also been amended to incorporate similar features as those considered allowable in claim 2.

Applicant has amended the claims to expedite prosecution and does not acquiesce to the Examiner's position. Accordingly, Applicant reserves the right to pursue different claims, including the claims canceled herein.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for immediate allowance, and earnestly solicit a Notice of Allowance, which is believed to be in order. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this communication, or the application in general, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at 703-456-8108.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R.§§ 1.16, 1.17, and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1283.

Dated: 11/17/03

Cooley Godward LLP ATTN: Patent Group One Freedom Square Reston Town Center 11951 Freedom Drive Reston, VA 20190-5656

Tel: (703) 456-8000 Fax: (703) 456-8100 Respectfully submitted, COOLEY GODWARD LLP

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Philip W. Marsh

Reg. No. 46,061

